

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 5 (canceled).

6 (new). A method of producing a gearwheel from a powder metal blank, the powder metal blank having two opposite end faces and a circumference, and the powder metal blank being pressed and sintered with an allowance in a region of toothing extending radially from the circumference, the method comprising the steps of

- (a) supporting the powder metal blank on a mandrel,
- (b) densifying the powder metal blank in the region of the allowance by pressing on a counter-toothing of a circular pusher tool engaging the toothing of the powder metal blank under plastic deformation by the allowance, and
- (c) clamping the two opposite end faces at the circumference to prevent radial movement thereof during densification.

7 (new). The method of claim 6, wherein two pressure rings are pressed axially against the two opposite end faces of the powder metal blank at the circumference to prevent radial

movement thereof.

8 (new). An apparatus for performing the method of claim 6, which comprises

- (a) a mandrel supporting the metal powder blank,
- (b) a circular pusher tool having counter-toothing engaging the toothing of the powder metal blank, and
- (c) two pressure rings coaxial with the mandrel and pressing axially against the opposite end faces of the powder metal blank at the circumference thereof to clamp the powder metal blank therebetween.

9 (new). The apparatus of claim 8, wherein one of the pressure rings is axially supported on the mandrel, further comprising an actuator for pressing the other pressure ring against the end face opposite to the one pressure ring.

10 (new). The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the powder metal blank and the pressure rings are in a positive locking connection.

11 (new). The apparatus of claim 10, wherein noses on the pressure rings engaging matching recesses in the powder metal blank provide the positive locking connection.